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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for the manufacture of synthetic vitreous silica ingots involves the production of a melt of synthetic vitreous silica in a crucible (35) within a refractory furnace (31), and the continuous withdrawal of an ingot (43) through an orifice (40) in the wall of the crucible. The silica may be deposited in the crucible by a synthesis burner (33), which may also serve to maintain the silica above its sintering temperature. The emerging ingot is supported by an arrangement of moveable clamps (44).